



Nicole Alexander-Scott, MD, MPH
Director

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TTY: 711
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April 29, 2021

The Honorable Marvin L. Abney
Chairman
House Committee on Finance
State House
82 Smith Street
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

RE: H 6122 - AN ACT MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE SUPPORT OF THE
STATE FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2022 (ARTICLE 11-
RELATING TO ADULT USE MARIJUANA)

Dear Chairman Abney:

I am writing in support of H 6122, Article 11-Relating to Adult Use Marijuana, legislation which is anchored in principles of equity and public health and safety.

The proposal would create 25 state-licensed retail stores in the first year of a three-year initiative, with minority-owned businesses and the state's medical marijuana dispensaries having opportunities to enter the new market.

The Rhode Island Department of Business Regulation's Office of Cannabis Regulation would license applicants and enforce compliance with the state's packaging, labeling, security and safety requirements for marijuana products. The plan would set aside 20% of new retail licenses and 50% of supporting ancillary licenses for minority/women-owned businesses.

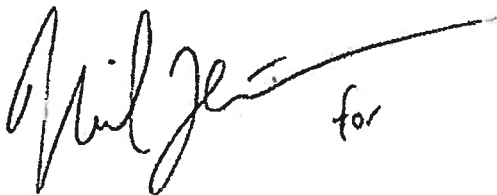
The Rhode Island Department of Health (RIDOH) will continue to expand its Cannabis Testing Laboratory Licensing Program that licenses and inspects analytical laboratories that analyze final cannabis products for potency and contaminants for public safety before they may be certified and released for sale.

Article 11 would invest \$1.1 million in proven health equity zones to expand community-driven health initiatives and infrastructure supported by the RIDOH and \$1 million in treatment, prevention, and surveillance through multiple state agencies. Of the \$1 million, \$366,785 is dedicated to public health prevention and surveillance activities targeting vulnerable populations including, but not limited to, young adults and adolescents, pregnant women, and individuals with disabilities.

The plan would also create a "Cannabis Reinvestment Task Force," which would make recommendations on how marijuana revenues could be used in job training, providing capital for small businesses, and community development in such areas of affordable housing and health equity.

It is for these reasons that I encourage your favorable consideration of Article 11.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nicole", followed by a long horizontal flourish line. Below the signature, the word "for" is written in a smaller, cursive script.

Nicole Alexander-Scott, MD, MPH
Director

CC: The Honorable Members of the House Committee on Finance
Nicole McCarty, Esquire, Chief Legal Counsel to the Speaker of the House